Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran pursuant to section IV, paragraph 9, of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[1]

1. Article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has underlined the importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones through the recognition of "the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories". The Islamic Republic of Iran, while welcoming the efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world, attaches great importance to and strongly supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In order to achieve the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this important region and realizing the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East that were supported in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, the Islamic Republic of Iran reports the following.

2. The idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East was first presented by Iran in 1974. Since 1982, the General Assembly has annually adopted a consensus resolution on this issue, which indeed is indicative of the strong and continuous global support for the establishment of such a zone.

Israeli nuclear-weapon programme as the main and only obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

3. Currently, there is only one non-party to the Treaty in the Middle East, which is the Israeli regime. Despite repeated calls by the international community, demonstrated in particular in the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and in related

[1] NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I).

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resolutions of the General Assembly, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Zionist regime has neither acceded to the Treaty nor placed its unwarranted nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. It has continued to refuse even to declare its intention to accede to the Treaty. Its nuclear weapons and unsafeguarded nuclear activities, as well as its persistent refusal to join the international legally binding instruments banning weapons of mass destruction, seriously threaten regional and international peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

4. The 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences reaffirmed the importance of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. Owing to the significant provisions of that resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran truly believes that the resolution should be implemented swiftly, especially by the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as sponsors of the resolution and depositories of the Treaty. Based on the package agreed to at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, they have the main responsibility for taking concrete steps to implement their commitments under this resolution.

5. The 2000 Review Conference reaffirmed "the importance of Israel's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East". Unconditional accession of the Zionist regime to the Treaty and the conclusion of a full-scope safeguards agreement with IAEA would undoubtedly pave the way for the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Neglecting the commitments undertaken by States parties to the Treaty with the adoption of this important resolution can only embolden that regime to continue to remain a source of threat and instability in the Middle East by flouting the aspirations of the international community and remaining outside the Treaty and the full-scope safeguards regime. In this context, we believe that some of the national reports submitted do not address the negative implications of the Zionist regime's intransigence with respect to joining the Treaty and are not as effective as they ought to be with regard to the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

6. In implementing its obligations under articles II and III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, all nuclear facilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are devoted to peaceful purposes and are under the full-scope safeguards of IAEA. Furthermore, contributing to the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction, the Islamic Republic of Iran has signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Its high record of accession, among the Middle Eastern countries, to the non-proliferation and disarmament instruments is a clear manifestation of its firm commitment to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in its bilateral and multilateral dialogues with other States parties to the Treaty, has always urged their active contribution towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In order to promote the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Islamic Republic of Iran also held two international conferences on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in Tehran, in 2010 and 2011, which, inter alia, examined ways and means of realizing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Many

participants in those conferences identified the nuclear-weapon programme of the Zionist regime as the main challenge and the only obstacle to the establishment of such a zone.

8. Unfortunately, the inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented nuclear-weapon programme of the Zionist regime has given that regime the audacity to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons, as divulged by its former Prime Minister in an interview on German television on 12 December 2006, contradicting the long-sought idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Moreover, the regime's development and possession of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and numerous General Assembly, Security Council and IAEA General Conference resolutions, but also clearly defy the demands and concerns of the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations and constantly and obstinately disregard the international community, which has, time and again, called upon this regime to renounce nuclear weapons and accede to the Treaty. Over and above the foregoing, the Non-Aligned Movement, in its statement dated 5 February 2007, expressed its great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by the Zionist regime, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemned that regime for its action and the aforementioned statement in this regard, and for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals.

9. The brutal attacks and acts of aggression by the Israeli regime against its neighbours and its refusal of the repeated calls by the international community to stop breaching international norms and principles are all evidence of the grave threat posed by such an aggressive regime. Needless to say, nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime could significantly endanger regional and international peace and security. This regime is the only one with the dark record of attacking nuclear facilities of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and it continues to threaten to attack the IAEA-safeguarded peaceful nuclear facilities of other States in the region.

10. The Security Council should fulfil its Charter-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and take prompt and appropriate action accordingly. Indeed, peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East while the massive nuclear arsenal of this regime continues to threaten the region and beyond. In this context, the resolutions of the IAEA General Conference on the nuclear capabilities of the Zionist regime and the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East should be recalled. Those resolutions are additional manifestations of the international concern about the threat posed to regional and international peace and security by the nuclear-weapon programme of this regime, which is the only obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

11. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that, pending the realization of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, no country of the region must acquire or maintain nuclear weapons or permit the stationing of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices on its territory or territory under its jurisdiction or control. They should also refrain from taking actions that run counter to both the letter and the spirit of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and contradict the resolutions

and consensus outcome documents of the Review Conferences, as well as the resolutions of the United Nations and the IAEA General Conference relating to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Review Conferences have a significant role in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The 2015 Review Conference should establish a subsidiary body under Main Committee II to consider this issue and make concrete recommendations on urgent and practical steps for the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as the measures contained in the Final Document and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, respectively. Iran believes that the implementation of relevant measures contained in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, particularly the recommendation that an international conference be convened in 2012 by the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, at the earliest date in 2014, should lead to the prompt and unconditional accession of the Zionist regime of Israel to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon party. Consistent with its long-standing policy on and commitment to the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, Iran has been positively engaged in consultations conducted by the Finnish facilitator of the conference. Iran also officially declared its readiness to participate in the Conference in 2012 before the date for the convening of such Conference, which was scheduled to be held in late 2012 in Helsinki. That declaration still remains valid. Iran calls upon the conveners and the facilitator to set a date for the convening of the conference at the earliest possible time and not later than the end of 2014. As a matter of fact, it was no surprise to Iran that the planned Helsinki conference was cancelled owing to the opposition of the Israeli regime. In this context, it would be unrealistic to hope for an improvement in the prospects for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as long as the Israeli regime's hypocritical policy on nuclear weapons and the United States policy of exempting Israel from international non-proliferation regime remain unaltered.

13. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the firm belief that an agreed plan of action and timetable for the universality of the Treaty in the Middle East should be a top priority on the agenda of all parties to the Treaty, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, as well as all efforts and initiatives aiming at establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. To that end, there should be sustained pressure on the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty, without any delay or condition, as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA comprehensive safeguards in order to pave the way for the long-sought goal of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Should the Conference on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East be convened in the future, it shall be dealt with as a subsidiary forum of the Review Conference process and therefore should follow its procedures.

14. In support of the rights of States parties under article VII of the Treaty, and in order to facilitate the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East as well as the agreements reached at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that all States parties to the Treaty, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, especially the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, should continue to report on the implementation of

the resolution, through the United Nations Secretariat, to the President of the Review Conference, as well as to the Chairs of its Preparatory Committee meetings, as agreed at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

15. The Review Conference should also establish a standing committee to monitor the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the agreements of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences in this regard, and to report thereon to the States parties to the Treaty.